

have been essential to keeping our nation and the State of Idaho strong and secure. I thank General Saylor for his service to our nation, and congratulate him on his many accomplishments and retirement.

HONORING BROCK ROHLFS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brock Rohlf. Brock is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brock has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brock has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brock has led his troop as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Brock has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Brock designed and completed a concrete sidewalk and a ramp from the Life Unlimited Facility to the Immacolata Manor's north room gathering space in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brock Rohlf for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING JOHN WHITEHURST

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, John Whitehurst, who is on a trip to Japan this week in honor of his father, U.S. Army Major Collin Whitehurst, Jr., who died as a prisoner of war (POW) during World War II. John Whitehurst is in Japan as a guest of the Japanese government, along with a delegation of former POWs and their families.

Major Whitehurst was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1914 and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1934, he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point where he was a pistol marksman and a member of the Chapel Choir and Glee Club. After graduation, Major Whitehurst was assigned to Fort Thomas, Kentucky, with Headquarters Company, 10th Infantry Regiment. It was there, in December 1939, that he married Rose Eva Knuebel, an officer's daughter.

In June 1940, Major Whitehurst sailed to the Philippines, where he was first stationed near Manila, then on the island province of Bohol, and later on the island of Leyte. After the United States entered the war in December, 1941, Major Whitehurst was assigned to the

staff of the Commanding General of the Visayan-Mindanao Force, Major General William F. Sharp on Mindanao. On May 10, 1942, under the threat of a massacre of all the POWs on the Philippine island of Corregidor, General Sharp reluctantly surrendered his forces on Mindanao.

After being held at Camp Casisang, Major Whitehurst and the other POWs on Mindanao were moved to the Davao Penal Colony No. 502. During his 21 months of imprisonment at Davao, Major Whitehurst and the acting Episcopalian chaplain sought to lift the spirits of the camp, organizing and training a choir for religious services.

Following a brief period of agricultural labor at a Cabanatuan, Philippines work site, Major Whitehurst and nearly 1,800 other prisoners were loaded onto the Japanese *Arisan Maru*, known as a "hell ship." While in transit to Japan, the convoy was attacked by American submarines and the *Arisan Maru* was torpedoed and sunk. Only nine of the POWs survived—Major Whitehurst was among those who tragically died.

In a letter to Major Whitehurst's parents following his death, General Sharp wrote: "Your son was a fine, loyal officer who did excellent work while serving with my Command. He was always cheerful and willing; he made a lasting impression on all with whom he came into contact. Collin's spirit never wavered during the long months of his imprisonment. We few still living who knew him cherish his memory." On October 25, 2004, 60 years and a day after Major Whitehurst's death, the Whitehurst family dedicated a memorial marker in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery commemorating his life and service.

John Whitehurst, Major Whitehurst's only son, has helped keep his father's memory and patriotism alive. John, who was born in Manila, has lived most of his life in Texas. A passionate social worker, John has also taken time to attend American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society conventions since 2002, and serves on the organization's Board of Directors. Twice, he has returned to the Philippines, including a visit for the dedication of the Hell Ship Memorial at Subic Bay.

I wish Mr. Whitehurst a fulfilling trip to Japan this week, and I offer him and his entire family my gratitude for his father's service and tremendous sacrifice for the United States.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MODEL CITIES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Model Cities, a provider of essential community services for low-income residents in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Born to meet a growing need for high-quality health care for low-income residents in the capital city's historic, predominantly African American Rondo neighborhood, Model Cities has grown and evolved over the past five decades into a dynamic development organization focused on fully integrating human services while working to improve economic conditions for all.

Model Cities has led the way adapting as necessary to address changing community

challenges. From its beginning in the basement of St. James AME Church, the organization broke through barriers to improve the lives of people coming through its doors. Early leaders like Mary Stokes, an African American nurse, who served as the center's first coordinator of volunteer medical and dental services, helped set the standard of care and outreach to the community. Mrs. Timothy O. Vann, another trailblazing African American woman and a graduate of the University of Minnesota, became the first project director in 1971. Upon her retirement, Dr. Beverley Oliver Hawkins became the new Executive Director in 1984 and continues to lead Model Cities.

Today, Model Cities looks a little different than it did at the beginning. As part of its evolution to meet the needs of the community, the health center became a separate organization and in 2003, changed its name to Open Cities Health Center. Model Cities continues to deliver a broad range of critical community services that strengthen our community: culturally competent family support services, youth program services, homebuyer education and community-based development. One of the community development efforts that is currently taking shape, Business Revitalization and Ownership for a Working Neighborhood (BROWNstone), aims to revitalize an area in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood along University Avenue and Metro Green Line Light Rail Transit, while also adding 35 units of affordable rental housing, as well as retail, office, and community space.

For 50 years, Model Cities has been a vital partner in our community, lifting up families and individuals in need to access opportunities to improve their lives. As Model Cities commemorates this 50th anniversary year, please join me in recognizing the selfless contributions of the staff and volunteers who have delivered these vital services for our community.

WILLIAM HANNAH RETIRES FROM LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN UNION

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of General Chairman William Hannah of the Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Union, a Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, who retired on October 1, 2017.

Bill Hannah gave his heart and time to the Labor movement working on better working conditions for the membership for over 35 years and 46 years in the industry. He began with Southern Pacific Railroad in May of 1971, was promoted to Engineer in 1978, and was a member of Division 5 from 1979 to 1981.

Bill became a charter member of Division 56 in 1981, and is still a proud member in good standing. For over 35 years he was a union leader for the Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Union as a Local Chairman of Division 56 from 1982 to 2001 and a General Chairman from 2001 to Oct. 1, 2017, covering 18 divisions and covering over 2000 members.

For over 16 years, he was involved in On-property Negotiations, as well as arbitration involving discipline, claims, rules and wages on the Union Pacific and Pacific Harbor Lines.

On Behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate and thank Bill Hannah for his 35 years of service to his committee. Bill is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF VALLEY GRANGE NO. 1360 IN YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere congratulations to the members of Valley Grange No. 1360 on its 110th Anniversary.

Valley Grange No. 1360 was officially chartered on October 7, 1907. The Grange is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture. Family and community are its foundations and the Grange was the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women.

Valley Grange No. 1360 has been a leader in the Grange organization, producing two Pennsylvania State Grange Masters—J. Luther Snyder and Carl Meiss; two National Grange officers—J. Luther Snyder and Fae Snyder—and it is the home of several past State Grange officers and youth ambassadors.

Valley Grange No. 1360 has also been very committed to its community throughout the years, supporting organizations such as 4-H, the Boy Scouts, the local Little League and has contributed to countless charitable endeavors.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank the members of Valley Grange No. 1360 for their dedicated service to their community and congratulate them on their 110th Anniversary. We wish them continued great success in the years to come.

HONORING STANLEY, THE ENGLISH BULLDOG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stanley, an English Bulldog in my district, who has become an inspiration to many of my constituents and continues to serve his community.

Stanley was born with a bilateral cleft lip, requiring the need for surgery to tooth problems and holes in his sinus passages. The community came together and raised the funds for the surgery. Now, Stanley goes to schools and community events and has become a source of inspiration for kids with his anti-bullying message. Stanley has also recently joined with the American Childhood Cancer Organization to form the first local chapter of the Founding Hope program, helping to raise funds and awareness to help children with cancer get the support they need.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stanley and the Pack family for their continuing service to their community, and for serving as an inspiration for children who face bullying and cancer diagnoses.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER LUKE POPE STRONG, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant of Georgia, a pillar in the Colquitt County community, and a friend of longstanding, Commissioner Luke P. Strong, Jr. Commissioner Strong passed away on Sunday, September 24, 2017. A funeral service was held on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Lakeside Assembly of God in Moultrie, Georgia.

Commissioner Strong was born on April 4, 1947, to the union of Luke Strong, Sr. and Mamie Brown-Strong. He was a product of the Colquitt County School System and graduated from the historic William Bryant High School in 1964. After graduation, he received a greater calling upon his life when he enlisted in the United States Army. He served proudly and honorably for five years. But, this was not the only calling that he would receive in his lifetime. He attended Gupton-Janes School of Mortuary Science in Atlanta, Georgia. He also was a graduate of the ABAC Police Academy and served as a police officer for one year at the McRae Police Department and four years as a deputy with the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department. He then served, alongside his father, as the Vice-President of Strong Enterprises.

In 1986, he was elected as the first and only African American Colquitt County Commissioner, which launched a historic career in public service that would lead him to become the longest seated elected official in Colquitt County. In 1995, he founded Luke Strong and Son Mortuary, L.T.D, which has grown to be one of the leading funeral establishments in South Georgia.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Commissioner Strong paid his rent and he paid it well. He gave his time and talents to many social and civic organizations to include: the Moultrie Colquitt Branch of the NAACP, The Georgia Association of County Commissioners, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials (GABEO), The National Association of County Commissioners, The Moultrie Men's Club, American Legion Post 533, and Moultrie Technical College Board of Directors. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Ram Round-Up and Community Service Award. Commissioner Strong was also a God fearing man. He was a member of the Grant Chapel A.M.E. Church where he was a member of the Board of Stewards, Board of Trustees and the Sons of Allen.

The great agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with aged, sympa-

thetic with striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these people." Commissioner Strong never forgot this lesson and was a man who would give you the shirt off of his back. He never advertised what he did for others, but was the true epitome of "Servant Leadership."

On a personal note, Commissioner Strong and his family have been dear friends to my wife Vivian and me for many years and I will miss the wise counsel that he imparted to me over the years.

Commissioner Strong has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family. His legacy lives on through his wife, Betty, his six children, four grandchildren and all of those that he touched in a very special way.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with a multitude of other people all across Georgia, salute Commissioner Luke Pope Strong, Jr. for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of the Colquitt County community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Commissioner Strong's family during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2017, I missed the following votes due to a flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call Vote 544, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1547, I would have voted Aye.

On Roll Call Vote 545, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 965, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO REX BROWN

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Rex Brown, a friend and beloved member of the Decatur community, who passed away earlier this month.

After finishing law school in 1957, Rex moved his family to Decatur where he built his career as the Senior Partner at his firm Brown, Hawkins, & Basola. He was a recipient of the Board of Governor's Award from the Illinois State Bar Association and enjoyed teaching Business and Real Estate Law at Richland Community College.

Not only was Rex well-respected as a lawyer in Decatur, but also as a prominent community member with a passion for serving his neighbors. He served as Chairman of the